



## Daily Devotionals: With Jesus One On One | January 2, 2022

### Day 1 - Devotion

Put yourself in Jesus' shoes. He has just come from the Jordan River where his cousin, John, had baptized him, kicking off his ministry on earth. During the baptism, he sees the Holy Spirit physically descend on him like a dove and hears his Father bless him, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Then, still dripping with the water from the river, he heads off into the wilderness for some intense ministry preparation: 40 days of fasting and prayer. Imagine the pain and weakness he must've felt at the end of that month and a half. Imagine how hungry he must've been. Maybe if you were there, you would have done *anything* for a bite of bread.

Now imagine what it must have been like when Satan arrived, offering the very thing Jesus might have wanted most of all: that piece of bread. Now, Jesus would have to do the baking using a stone for his recipe, but Satan wasn't concerned about that. He knew Jesus could not only make bread, but he could also turn that stone into a loaf better than the best French baguette or San Francisco sourdough. So, Jesus is faced with a choice. And I don't know about you, but when I'm tired or stressed, lonely or hungry, I tend to make bad choices. Not Jesus though; he survived that test and a couple others, finished his fast, headed into town, and got to work.

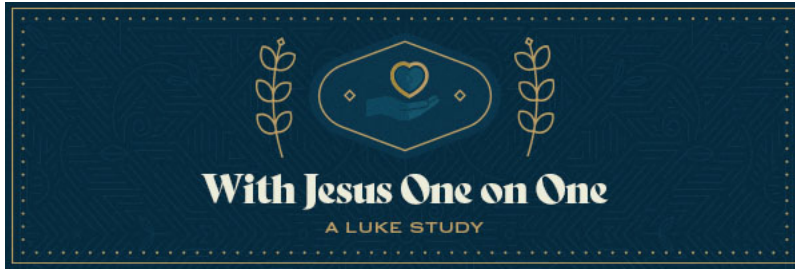
### Read Luke 4:1-13.

Satan stood no chance in his one-on-one encounter with Jesus, and there are a couple things to note about the encounter that show how Jesus was able to overcome such physical suffering and triumph over evil during intense temptation.

First, and perhaps most obvious, was his use of scripture to repel Satan's attacks. It was very important that Jesus knew scripture well enough to quote it, apply it, and not be fooled by it when it was used inappropriately against him. He didn't try to stand on his own two feet and outwit Satan. He refused to play along, relying on the word

Second, was his security in knowing who he was. Do you notice how Satan started his temptations? "If you are the Son of God..." He attacked Jesus' identity and offered him power—the same dirty trick he's used since the beginning. He tried to make Jesus question who he was and want what wasn't yet his to grasp. But flip back a page; what had Jesus just heard proclaimed over him? "This is my beloved Son, whom I love." His identity was attacked, but his identity was also the very thing that allowed him to stand.

As we navigate this week, it's important to remember a couple things. This will not be like other weeks: we will look at Jesus' encounter not with a beloved son or daughter, but an adversary. We'll learn about him so that we can understand his methods. But we will also be reminded that our hope is not in doing battle on our own; it is by being with God and allowing Him to battle for us.



**Reflection:**

1. When have you tried to outwit Satan, beating him at his own game?
2. When have you had your identity questioned? What did it feel like? What was your reaction?
3. What do you want God to reveal to you this week about Jesus one-on-one with Satan?



## Day 2 - Bible Study Breakdown

Let's dive a little deeper into Jesus' confrontation with Satan in the wilderness in Luke 4.

First of all, let's learn more about Satan so we can have a more accurate picture of who our adversary is. Check out the Bible Project video using the QR code below:



*What did this video teach you about the satan?*

Now with a bit of a clearer picture of the satan—the adversary—let's look at the details of the encounter.

Let's start with *when*. Jesus went into the wilderness immediately after his baptism (**Mark 1:12**). The timing is important to notice for a couple reasons. Satan is not all-knowing; it took a proclamation from God about who Jesus was (the voice from heaven during the baptism) for Satan to know who his enemy was. Jesus had to be identified, and as we saw yesterday, it was that identity that he attacked. If he could make Jesus blink—make him question who he was for just a moment, Satan could have ruined the plan. So he went when Jesus was weakened physically.

Now let's look at *where*. The word for wilderness is *eremos*, a Greek word meaning solitary place, quiet place, desert place. This word, *eremos*, doesn't just show up here. In fact, many times when the Gospels mention Jesus going to a solitary place to be with His Father, it uses the word *eremos*. This sticks out because it indicates Jesus' pattern for doing ministry. He didn't do anything outside His Father's will, and he spent countless hours praying to him in the solitary places. It's no surprise that he spent 40 whole days there as he began his ministry.

Last, let's look at *who*. Who was there? Obviously, Jesus and Satan play the main roles, but who else? Mark 1 says wild animals were there; good to know. Matthew and Mark both mention that angels attended to Jesus once the tempting was done; also important to know. But it's also important to look at those present who we don't see physically—the ones you've probably already guessed: God the Father and the Holy Spirit. But there's one group of people you might have missed. **Luke 4:5** says, "The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world." That's us. People around the world through history, and Satan was offering to hand it all over to Jesus if he would just bow to him.



When we put these details together, a couple things emerge. It seems on the surface that Satan picked an opportune time to tempt Jesus as he was hungry and physically weakened. But the fatal flaw that he made was thinking that Jesus was weakened spiritually. Forty days spent in the eremos, the very place he always went to get away with his Father. It had given Jesus all the strength he needed to withstand. He had been reminded of his identity, and he was commissioned to start his ministry.

Satan had promised him all the kingdoms of the world and all he had to do was bow down to him, but it was staying true to his identity and his calling that would eventually bring all those kingdoms to him.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Where is your eremos, your quiet place where you get away from distraction and seek God? How often do you go there? What changes can help you get there more often?
2. It's harder for Satan to make us question our identity when we remember it clearly. Take time to remember your identity. Write down who God says you are.
3. Compare Jesus' physical weakness from fasting and his strength from spending time with his Father. Have you experienced physical weakness (tired, hungry, lonely, etc) that made you prone to falling for Satan's questions? When have you experienced spiritual strength that has allowed you to withstand?



### Day 3 - Scripture Survey

*Let's see what the Bible has to say about Satan. Circle the things that describe him.*

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44**

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **1 John 3:8a**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. **John 10:10**

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" **Genesis 3:1**

The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." **Job 1:7**

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. **Revelation 12:7-9**

1. What did you notice about Satan's power and tactics? What thoughts and emotions come when thinking about him?

*Now let's look at God's power and authority over Satan. Circle the words that describe it.*

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. **1 John 3:8b**

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **Romans 16:20**

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **1 John 4:4**

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." **Matthew 28:18**



...who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him. **1 Peter 3:22**

1. What did you notice about God's power and authority? What thoughts and emotions come when thinking about his authority?

*Thirdly, look at the power we have been given over Satan and the game plan that has been given to us to withstanding his attacks. Circle the words that describe it. Underline the ways you receive that power (identify where our power comes from).*

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” **Luke 10:19-20**

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **James 4:7**

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **Revelation 12:11**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **Ephesians 6:10-11**

1. How do these verses change your perspective or confidence about your power over Satan?
2. When you reflect on where this power comes from, how does that change your perspective or grow your confidence?



## Day 4

We have looked at how Jesus was able to withstand the temptation of Satan by spending extended time with God. We've looked at Satan's tactics, questioning God's goodness, questioning our identity, and using lies to kill, steal, and destroy. And we've been reminded that God has given us authority and supernatural power through the Holy Spirit to overcome him. Before you answer the reflection questions below, sit in silence for 3 minutes and then pray and invite God to speak to you through this exercise and reveal what he sees in you.

Can you name a time when you or someone you love was attacked (or maybe felt attacked) by Satan? What was the experience like, what thoughts or emotions accompanied it?

When you think about Jesus one-on-one with Satan, how does his power reframe that experience? How does it bring healing or trust? What questions does it raise?

We looked at **Revelation 12:11**, "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." It clearly shows two ways of triumphing over Satan: the blood of the Lamb (aka the Gospel, the way God saved us) and the power of their testimony.

1. How did the blood of the lamb save you in your experience?
2. What power lies in your testimony?



## Day 5

Let's apply what we've learned. We know Jesus was perfect, so in comparison, it might seem difficult to think of ourselves as being able to withstand Satan's attacks. And yes, we fail sometimes. We identify perhaps more easily with Adam and Eve, who were tempted with the same kinds of questions that Jesus was: "Are you really who God said you were?" and "Don't you want power like God has?" and failed the test.

But there are ways to leave behind the feelings of failure and embrace the power and presence of God in our everyday lives, which is our true hope of overcoming Satan's power. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Escape to the wilderness. Plan solitude time to be strengthened by God and reminded of your identity. There is a solitude practice included in this book; go ahead and put it on your schedule.
2. Hide God's word in your heart. Outside of God's presence in us, his Word is our most useful defense against Satan's attacks. Keep growing in your love for it and your desire to meet God on the pages of scripture. Start where you are, not where you think you should be. Ask God to grow your desire and your capacity to absorb his Word.
3. Come back to community. Staying isolated is a dangerous place to be. After Adam and Eve gave into temptation, they tried to hide, to keep it a secret. Jesus was attended by angels, went back into town, and started calling his disciples. That stark contrast can teach us that being with people is as important as being with God if we are to triumph over temptation. Many of us reading these devotions already have community around us. Are you leaning on them in the moments when you're weakened? If not, how can you start?

Choose an action step from this list and practice implementing it right now.